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DR. NORTH'S MEDICAL REPORTS AT SARATOGA.

[Concluded from page 201.]

CASE VIII. *Asthma.*—Mrs. Whitcomb, of Lower Canada, aged about 40, has been afflicted with asthma for six years. Since Sept., 1837, she has been utterly unable to labor. During the winter of 1838–9 she scarcely assumed the horizontal posture, but was obliged to sit up all night, with dyspnœa so agonizing that she often sprang upon her feet as if in the very act of suffocation. She had fixed pain in the shoulders, indigestion, loss of appetite and costiveness. She frequently took emetics of lobelia and capsicum; also of tartrate of antimony. She smoked stramonium leaves without measure. But this and all other remedies failed; and she was supposed, in the spring of 1839, to be near her end. Her flesh was almost entirely gone. In this condition, in June of the same season, she came to a full resolve, independently of her medical advisers, to try the waters of Saratoga as a last resort. Her weakness and emaciation were so great that her friends and neighbors supposed they were taking their final leave of her on her departure. She came on with her husband in their own chaise, and rode but 10 miles the first day. During the journey she was so strongly dissuaded, by a physician of great distinction, from risking her lung complaints at the fountains of this village, that she returned towards home 15 miles. After a sleepless night, however, she once more turned her course towards Saratoga, and arrived here in the latter end of June, without any perceptible benefit from the journey. She commenced the use of the Flat Rock Spring, one of the chalybeate fountains. This water produced such an aggravation of her dyspnœa that she was obliged, at the end of two or three days, to take an emetic. She then took, every morning, four tumblers of the Congress Spring, and during the rest of the day drank from 12 to 16 tumblers of the Iodine Spring. These waters, in these large doses, proved not only powerfully cathartic, but exhilarating. Her appetite immediately improved, and, in a few days, she was so voracious and ate so much that she was greatly ashamed of her performances at table. In the course of four weeks her dyspnœa had entirely left her, night and day; the pain in her shoulders was removed; her flesh rapidly increased; her sensations all became comfortable, and she returned to Canada, supposing herself perfectly cured.

On reaching home she immediately experienced the return of her old enemy. At the end of about two months she was nearly as bad as when she left home in June, and she and her husband left all and came to Saratoga for the winter. They arrived about Oct. 10th, 1839. Being situated close to the Iodine Springs, she took that only, and to the amount of 12 to 16 tumblers daily. She seldom drank less than two quarts. She immediately began to recover, on reaching Saratoga, and, although she has had considerable dyspnœa at times, particularly during colds, yet she has not failed to sleep pretty comfortably every night, has had good appetite and spirits, and has accomplished considerable labor. Late in the fall she spent three or four days in the south part of the village, during which time she took the Congress water exclusively. Although this proved quite as much or more purgative than the Iodine, yet she felt no relief. It did not appear to injure her; it merely proved, according to her account, ineffectual in removing her distresses. The Iodine water was, on the contrary, immediately and sensibly beneficial, invigorating and cordial, and directly diminishing any existing difficulty of breathing. She has, consequently, since then, confined her potations to the Iodine Spring, and is now, April 2, 1840, in usual flesh and strength, sleeps comfortably, and is in full expectation that, by continuing here through the summer, she shall wholly eradicate the disease. Her observation on the comparative effects of the two springs, as far as one instance goes, would show that, in the discovery of the Iodine Spring, the public are put in possession of an additional remedy which is more adapted to particular cases than the other fountains.

I have seen this lady, for the first time, this afternoon, April 2d, 1840; and, from a minute investigation, I conclude that hers is a case of asthma of the *atonic* kind, as her pulse is very soft; and that it depends on disorder of the abdominal viscera. The facts that she took a long journey in 1838 without any benefit, and that her ride to Saratoga, a distance of 200 miles, twice in 1839, was without any apparent effect; that, moreover, she has taken no medicine during her trial of the waters, and that those waters were attended with *sensible* relief—amount to strong proof that these waters are possessed of powerful efficacy in removing most distressing and alarming functional derangements depending on diseased action in the chylopoietic viscera.

Case IX. *Chronic Nephritis and Cystitis.*—July 22, 1839. Rev. Mr. S., from Vermont, aged about 55. Great and constant pain about the bladder and kidneys. Has to pass urine many times during the night, with much pain. The cellular tissue over the whole body seems enlarged, hard and full. Pulse very hard, but slow. Appetite, tongue, countenance, as usual. Walks stooping. Riding painful. *Treatment.*—Bleed to 16 oz.; half gr. op. and 1 gr. calomel every four hours, accompanied with 15 gtts. antimonial wine. ʒ vi. sulph. magnesia, every morning, omitting Congress water, which he thinks has aggravated his complaints. 27th. Omit the cal. and op.; continue the drops and Epsom salts; bath at 90 degrees every second day. 28th. Bleed 14 oz.; continue others. 29th. Pulse much softer; pain of bladder nearly gone;

but one or two evacuations from bladder during night, and those easy; walking, riding, and bodily motions, more comfortable.

Hoping that the entonic action was so far reduced that I could bring the waters to act on the urinary organs in such large quantities as to transcend the cathartic action, and to pass off through these organs as a thorough diuretic, I ordered him to take very light breakfasts, and to take, every forenoon, from 12 to 16 tumblers of the Congress water, and to continue the baths. The scheme proved a decided failure. In the course of five days the pulse became as wiry as ever, and the inflammatory symptoms, with his accustomed sufferings, returned. I was compelled to abandon the use of the water and resort to spare diet, the lancet, and other depletory measures. In a few days he again became quite comfortable, and left Saratoga rapidly convalescing on a course of abstinence and antiphlogistic treatment.

Note.—Although many disorders of an entonic character have so far yielded to a reducing course, under my direction, as to bear the waters in full doses and with the usual benefit, yet, occasionally, as in this case, I have been obliged to regret the attempt and recur to the usual means of reducing inflammatory action.

Case X. *Diabetes.*—Although this case of diabetes did not fall under my own observation, the history of it is so direct, and the cure of the disease by the ordinary methods so difficult and tedious, that I hope to be pardoned for introducing it. An invalid consulted my friend, Dr. Perry, of this village, in the summer of 1839, for some common complaint. During the investigation Dr. Perry learned that he had been here some seasons before for diabetes, and that he was perfectly and permanently cured. As the man had the appearance of honesty and intelligence, Dr. P. questioned him particularly, and learned, that on his own responsibility he came on here and drank a gallon a day of the Congress water, living on light diet. The result was, a speedy and thorough recovery. This case should be characterized "*Homœopathic theory versus Homœopathic practice.*" Who can doubt that the cure was accomplished by the factitious diuresis transcending and supplanting the morbid diuresis, produced by a very compound diuretic of a peculiar character?—or, if the reader prefers, by transplanting the general derangement of the chylopoietic organs on which this morbid secretion depended? Yet, instead of the decillionth part of a tumbler, the patient kept his stomach full of the medicine; nay, made it a reservoir from which the absorbents were constantly pumping the medicine and conveying it through the circulating mass to the kidneys. As it is undoubtedly true that some of the wide-spread readers of this Journal have cases of this kind under their care at the present time, it is respectfully suggested to them to try the Saratoga waters. Let the patient have a spare diet and take daily six bottles of the Congress or Iodine waters. Let him be watched; and if the saccharine secretion be suspended, and the urine like that of any one taking a similar quantity, he should come immediately to the fountains. If the pulse is *soft* and *slow*, a hot bath containing table salt, at the temperature of 100 degrees, increasing gradually to 110, and taken twice daily, would be a powerful auxiliary by

retaining, for some hours a day, several pounds of extra blood in the cutaneous capillaries.

Case XI. *Chronic Gastritis.*—August 1, 1839. Col. W. G. R., from Connecticut. Has spent seven years at the South. For three years past has had what he calls dyspepsia. Great tenderness at epigastrium on pressure; bowels regular; tongue smooth; pulse 84 and hard; constant and extreme vertigo; is always very wretched, unless under the most rigid diet; considers life a burden. *Treatment.*—Four grs. pulv. ant. combined with loaf sugar and gum arabic, at 6—10—2—6—10. One teaspoonful calcined magnesia, and from two to six tumblers Congress water in the morning. 10th. Pulse 72 and softer. Is improving. Continue remedies. Soon after this he returned to Connecticut much amended, and provided with a large supply of the water in bottles. On the 11th of September the report from him was that he was "well"—so well, indeed, that he had no use for his beverage, and was enjoying life as others around him.

Case XII. *Strictured Urethra.*—August 5, 1839. Mr. H., of N. Y. Has had gonorrhœa. Some discharge yet, of a gleety character. Strangury very troublesome; has had to pass the bougie often; is florid and of full habit; pulse very hard; constant pain near the kidneys; was lately much injured by the common prescription of balsam of copaiva and cubebs. *Treatment.*—Sulphate magnesia and four tumblers of the Congress water every morning; bath of mineral water daily at 85 degrees; ½ gr. op. and 1 gr. cal. every 6 hours for three days, then night and morning. Within one or two weeks he was so well that he returned to his friends.

Case XIII. *Hypochondriasis. Sudden and total suspension of the excessive Use of Tobacco.*—July 26, 1839. G. B. A., a merchant from Massachusetts. Severe pain, during last 11 weeks, in the stomach, left hypogastrium, left hip and left shoulder; strange sensation of motion in the stomach, as if suddenly jerked; flatulence; pulse strong; voracious appetite. For 20 years has hardly failed to be under the narcotic influence of tobacco, unless when asleep. Has also drank tea and coffee in large quantity and very strong. Is miserably hypochondriacal, the prey of groundless apprehensions and anomalous nervous disorders. *Treatment.*—1 gr. cal., ¾ gr. op. in a pill, night and morning; four to six tumblers Congress water in the morning, with ¾ oz. Epsom salts; bath daily at 90 degrees; also an entire relinquishment of tobacco from this day, in all its forms. 28th. Has voluntarily abandoned tea and coffee along with the tobacco; fully resolved, live or die, to exist no longer in a condition so unnatural and so horrid. I can scarcely credit him when he says he has experienced no collapse from the disuse of tobacco, tea and coffee. 30th. Still improving. Continue all except the salts. Aug. 1. No operation from the water. Recur to the sulphate of magnesia, and continue the other remedies. 13th. Has continued the treatment. Leaves town to-day. Says his sensations for three days past have been more comfortable than for many years. His hypochondriacal depressions not wholly gone, yet scarcely annoying. Is delighted with his calmness and equanimity, and feels not the least desire for the tobacco.

Note.—I cannot account for the very trifling inconvenience of leaving off the tobacco in this extraordinary case. From a similar instance of a Mr. Root, from Enfield, Mass., who came under my care, July 31, 1839, and who suddenly discontinued a very free use of tobacco without any of that nervous sinking or mordacious longing after the drug, so much dreaded, I am strongly of the opinion that the exhilarating effect of the water, drank at the fountain and fully charged with gas, is the true cause why the victims to this tyrannical and destructive habit were able to burst their bonds with so little trouble. For the sake of this pitiable class of invalids, I hope to be able to test this opinion more fully the coming season.

DR. CHANNING'S DISCOURSE ON HOMŒOPATHY.*

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THIS is an extremely plausible, and, indeed, well-written discourse, though by no means meriting the exaggerated encomiums which have been lavished upon it. The author's reasoning is extremely weak and inconclusive, abounding in fallacies, obvious, it would seem, to the most superficial reader. And yet it has been extolled as a model of logical acumen, calculated to carry conviction to the minds of the most sceptical. What has given currency to such an opinion, it were difficult to imagine, unless, indeed, it be the great stress which the author lays upon the importance of the Inductive Philosophy, and close observation of "the facts of nature." But it is not every professed follower of Bacon, who adheres to Bacon's rules of philosophizing; and we have never met with a more striking example of the violation of these rules, than in the discourse under consideration. We do not attribute this to the author's ignorance of these rules, so much as to the badness of the cause which he has undertaken to advocate. A false system cannot be proved to be true, by any process of reasoning known to philosophy. [illegible] will always detect some flaw in the argument, or some [illegible] the chain of evidence. In the present instance, the au[illegible] are not only false, but every step of his ratiocination is [illegible] pothesis instead of fact. This shall be made fully to appear in the sequel.

We may premise that the grand object of the author is to defend the new doctrine of *Homœopathy*, and place it in the list of the inductive sciences. Those acquainted, at all, with the subject, know very well that this is indeed an arduous undertaking, and one never before attempted; and they will not feel disposed to think lightly of the author's powers, because he has failed of success, in an effort which must necessarily end in discomfiture. It requires, indeed, more than mortal arm to bring light out of such palpable darkness, and order out of such chaotic confusion, as enshroud and characterize the homœopathic system, so called; and we give the author great credit for his daring hardihood,

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* The Reformation of Medical Science, demanded by Inductive Philosophy. A discourse delivered before the "New York Physicians' Society," on their anniversary, Nov. 21, 1838. By William Channing, M.D. Second edition, pp. 56.

in attempting such a miracle. He seems to have taken for his motto, "*Nil desperare*"!

It appears that this discourse was delivered before the New York Physicians' Society, and a manuscript copy requested to be deposited in its archives. The partiality of the author, however, contrary to the wishes of the members of the association, led to its publication; the author, therefore, and not the Society, must be held responsible for the appearance of the discourse.

We shall pass over the first few pages of the discourse, which are occupied with an exposition of the objects of the Society, and an enforcement of the claims of inductive philosophy. We see nothing objectionable here, unless it be a studied attempt to disparage the medical profession, and to bring contempt upon practical medicine, by representing it as, "at best, a mystical, and often merely a conjectural art." The Society might well say to such an advocate, "*non tali auxilio.*" The author should have recollected his own remark, that "a theory may be overturned, though every fact from which it emanated were incontrovertible." Thus, our theories of inflammation, for example, may be wrong, and yet our treatment of that disease highly proper; so in other cases. It does not follow that medical practice is not vastly improved, and highly successful, because there may be some visionary theories still extant. The practical benefits conferred by medical science upon the human family, are not to be estimated by such a standard. Sydenham was a highly successful practitioner, although he was a believer in the exploded doctrines of the humoral pathology. "To contradict past experience," says Dr. C., "is an indubitable mark of fallacy." Let homœopathy be judged by this rule, and it will have but little foundation for its support—for its very essence consists in a denial of all past experience, except among its own disciples.

After premising a few definitions, Dr. C. begins his argument by laying down the proposition, that "Exercise, within normal, or pre- is absolutely indispensable to the development and vigor very function of the animal economy; and though the ed are not clearly defined, they are undoubtedly tran- whenever, by reason of exercise, the vigor of any function, after normal rest, continues impaired. In this fundamental truth, that exercise is nature's indispensable agent in her work of developing and confirming the vital forces—an agent, within conservative limits, uniformly invigorating, and beyond these limits, as uniformly enfeebling every function or force of animal life—in this universal truth, we apprehend, lies the germ of a great principle," &c. Now, while we cheerfully concede to exercise all the importance which the author claims, as a means of invigorating and developing the various functions and organs of the system, in health, let us inquire what is this "great principle" deduced from the law of exercise. Expressed in Latin, it reads, "*Contraria contrariis corroborantur*"—that is, every organ and function is strengthened by the influence of that agent, which is its natural stimulus. Thus, the eye is strengthened by light, the ear by sound, the organ of smell by odors, the organ of taste by sapid articles, the sense of touch

by everything which produces the sensation of feeling, &c. "To these adverse or opposing forces," says our author, "every function is alike indebted for its earliest, its latest, its every manifestation of existence."

Let us test the doctrine further. What stimulates the liver to discharge its appropriate function of secreting bile? The *blood*, it will be answered. What stimulates the kidneys to secrete urine? The same answer, probably, will be given. What excites the cutaneous, and all the other secretions and excretions of the body? Now, it will be seen at a glance, that many of the organs and functions have nothing equivalent to an "adverse or opposing force;" for surely the blood will not so be considered, or, if it is, it will be opposed to the author's hypothesis of *specific* stimulants. Does not the reader perceive that Dr. C.'s "general principle" is a very *partial* one, applicable to the five senses, and the development of muscular power, only? The cases adduced in illustration of the principle, are, in addition to the above, the power of resisting atmospheric vicissitudes; of breathing, with impunity, marsh and other pestilential affluvia; and acclimation. But is the inhabitant of a marshy country exempt from attacks of intermittent and bilious fevers, from the fact that his system has been *strengthened* by the miasmatic poison, so as effectually to resist its influence? Does the old resident of New Orleans escape yellow fever, because the heat, and the damp, and the sultry atmosphere, have strengthened him against these powerful causes of disease? Or is it not rather, that by the influence of habit, these agents have ceased to exercise their former influence upon the system? For the same reason, the physician is mostly exempt from attacks of contagious diseases, to which he is so frequently exposed. But according to Dr. C.'s hypothesis, the *virus* or contagious principle of yellow fever, plague, smallpox, &c., is a very good thing to corroborate or strengthen the various organs, only let it be in "normal quantity and not "in excess;" for we are told, that "of the myriads of agents by which animal life is invested, *none is essentially in*[illegible] none proves hostile, but through an excessive exhibition"—(p. 26.) Is this indeed so? Then *carbonic acid*, *the hydrophobic virus, the poison of the rattlesnake*, [illegible] lent "corroborators," *both in health and disease*, provided "within the limits of conservative re-action"! But as for ourselves we are very well satisfied to remain deprived of these "strengtheners," excellent as our author esteems them. Let any person travel through a country where marsh effluvia abound, such as the valley of the Mississippi or the Campagna di Romana; the sallow, sickly aspect of the inhabitants, and their emaciated, tottering forms, will probably lead him to a far different conclusion from that of Dr. C.; he will have no desire to breathe, even in the minutest quantity, such a "corroborator" as the subtle poison which has devastated the fairest portions of our globe.

Now we appeal, not only to the reason of the philosopher, but to the common sense of every reader, whether facts will warrant the belief, that "every agent in nature" is absolutely friendly to animal life, and "none inimical." Daily observation and experience are utterly opposed to such a doctrine. Among the innumerable visionary hypotheses,

which have been ushered into the world, to fall stillborn, none more visionary and absurd than this, have ever been broached. "No agent," says our author, "is injurious, but in transcending the limits, beyond which the vital forces necessarily succumb"! This "grand law of animal existence"! so "unequivocally proclaimed by nature," is supposed to apply not only to physical but *moral* agents or powers. But is *grief* a strengthener of the vital forces? Who has not seen the silent, but gradual influence of this heart-corroding emotion, slowly poisoning the vital current, at its very fountain head? *Is any degree of grief conservative?* We might proceed to show the utter fallacy of the author's grand principle, by other illustrations; but we conceive it to be unnecessary. It is a bare hypothesis, opposed to all fact, and even contrary to the common sense of mankind. And this is the only foundation, which could be found, on which to erect the doctrine of *homœopathy!* And let it be borne in mind, that even should it be established that this is a law in health, it would still remain to be proved that it is applicable to a state of disease, an inference which the author takes for granted.

We are not surprised at the author's anxiety to find some general "law" or "principle" which may serve as a basis for his transcendental system of medicine, for hitherto homœopathy has stood forth, as a sort of anomalous hybrid, or fungous excrescence upon science, without vitality sufficient to prevent putrefaction. Indeed this is the first attempt, which has ever been made, to discover the principle from which the *similia similibus* doctrine is deduced, and even Hahnemann himself made no attempt to bring it within the legitimate domains of science. If Dr. C. [illegible]ed, it has been because the doctrine itself is false, and therefore [illegible] no sound basis on which to rest.

[illegible] told, that the *homœopathic* doctrine is an "inevitable corol[illegible] the "grand law of animal existence. *Contraria contrariis* [illegible]" but *how*, is not made to appear. Admitting even the [illegible]*sion* by no means follows; it is to all intents a *non* [illegible]g all speculations," he remarks, "on the inscru[illegible]ence of disease, and rejecting all pathological hy[illegible]er words, all *pathology*, "the physician confines his [illegible]ion strictly to appreciable phenomena, and their inductive classifica[illegible], as the only legitimate work of medical philosophy; he discerns in [illegible]ese, thus classified, the characteristic features of individual cases—and in each case respectively, that certain functions or forces of the living economy are specially invaded, requiring the aid of medicinal agents." Now, we may remark, incidentally, that it has been by this very process, that the present highly improved pathology of disease has been established; it is the legitimate result of the "observation and appreciation of phenomena" both of health and disease, and by a comparison of these with the changes witnessed after death. Our author, like all who have adopted his system, limits his view to a part, and that but a very small one, of the vast field of medical science; he would have us to watch symptoms, and observe the effects of remedies, like the empiric school of old, but the anatomical structure and the pathological changes,

"the nature and seat of disease," he would pass by, as of no consequence whatever. In this, however, he only imitates the visionary founder of his system, who not only rejects all these, but denies that nature possesses or exerts any recuperative energy, regarding her as a blind, mischievous intermeddler, not even ever stumbling into the right path!

But let us follow up our author in his *peculiar* mode of reasoning, and see how he deduces the doctrine of "*similia similibus curantur*" from his "grand principle." "The attention of the physician," he observes, "is first directed to the offending cause *which excited* and *may continue* the disturbance. This removed—" What next? We should have supposed that when the cause of the disease had been removed, the disease itself would have disappeared! But not so. The physician then "turns confidingly to the laws of life," &c. But supposing these laws to be unknown? No matter; *one* of them has been discovered by Dr. C., and that is, "*Contraria contrariis corroborantur*," and that is sufficient. Well, then, "obedient to its mandate, he selects, as the means of invigorating their re-action" (i. e. "the laws of life"!) "an agent specifically adverse to the yielding functions or forces." Very well; why not then select the article which is the *natural* "adverse agent" to the suffering organ? If the eye is diseased, light should be the remedy; for the ear, sound; for the smell, odors; for the lungs, air; for the stomach, food; for the liver—but that is an exception, for it has no "adverse agent"—and so of nine-tenths of the other organs and functions. "In other words, he prescribes the medicine, which acting path[illegible] genetically upon an organism in health, affects in a similar man[illegible] special functions or forces suffering under the attack. That is [illegible] administers an agent, which, producing in the healthy organ[illegible] phenomena similar to those manifest in the patient, is ch[illegible] formity with the well-known principle, '*similia simili*[illegible] This is about the finest specimen of the "*petitio* [illegible] reasoning we have ever met with. "Every a[illegible] within conservative limits, uniformly invigoratin[illegible] those agents *only*, which produce symptoms simila[illegible] adequate to remove it! This may be satisfactory reasoni[illegible] path, but it will answer for nobody else.

To illustrate, opium, for example, always produces, in a certain in[illegible] vidual, headache, dizziness, ringing in the ears, &c. When laboring unde[illegible] these symptoms, therefore, occurring spontaneously, he takes opium, and is relieved; and this on the principle "*contraria contrariis corroborantur*" —or rather, its corollary "*similia*," &c. The efficacy of opium in this case, can only be explained on the supposition that it is a natural "corroborator" of the cerebral functions; and this reasoning is called by our author "inductive analysis"! We should rather call it visionary assumption. To show that we do not pervert the meaning of our author, we quote further: "Inasmuch as every agent, like exercise, is an agent, within conservative limits, uniformly invigorating, and beyond these limits as uniformly enfeebling every function or force of animal life, in its sphere of activity, and as the sole object of a medicinal agent, so se-

lected, is to *invigorate yielding forces* or *functions*, it follows, that only within these limits should the powers of such agent be exhibited." Now, the reader will not fail to observe, that on this hypothesis, *as all agents are invigorating*, they must only differ in *degree*; and as disease, according to the author's pathology, invariably consists in "*debility* of the organ," or a "yielding of the forces or functions," it ought to follow, that one remedy, acting specifically upon the diseased organ, would be as good as another, provided it be administered in a suitable dose. But this would by no means be admitted. But how are all agents corroborators? Does every agent strengthen *every part* and every function of the body; or, has each organ and function its particular, specific stimulus? If the former is true, then one article is as good a medicinal agent as another, making allowance for the difference in strength; if the latter, then there is an immense number of agents in nature, which have no corresponding organ or function. The *similia similibus* doctrine, however, can be deduced from neither supposition—for, after all, the question of *fact* would remain to be determined.

It will be perceived, then, that the author's reasoning is not only purely hypothetical, but his hypotheses are heaped upon each other, at least *three deep*. In the first place, it is hypothesis to say *that all agents in nature corroborate, or strengthen the vital forces.* It is hypothesis to say, that *in disease, the functions or forces always require corroborating*; the very reverse of which is often the case, as every practical physician knows. It is hypothesis to say, admitting the first supposition to be ..., that the doctrine of homœopathy can be deduced from it; and ... it is hypothesis to say, that those agents which cause certain ... in health, will remove those symptoms in disease.

...mises of Dr. C. are thus utterly untenable, we shall not ...es to refute his conclusions. If homœopathy has nothing ... rest upon, than the "inductive reasoning" of this dis... ...aseless than a vision. Though our author calls it ...rous scion of Inductive Philosophy," we should ... withered gourd of Jonah. Should it, like the ...neveh, perish, as it has sprung up, in a night, we ...iend, the author, will summon to his aid all that Phi... ...which he knows so well how to extol. CRITO.

HOME-SICKNESS.

DR. RUSH adduces, among the examples of strong yearning with which expatriated people recur to the objects and associations of early life, that of "an Italian, in New York, who during the first part of his last sickness spoke English; in the middle, French; on the day of his death, only his own language."—A Lutheran minister, of Philadelphia, observed that the old Swedes on their death-beds prayed in their own language, though they had not spoken it for fifty or sixty years before. —A clergyman, of Lancaster, Pa., says—"In innumerable instances of my German hearers, they prayed in their last hours in their own lan-

guage, though hardly a word of German was spoken by them in health." —Dr. Connor in early life renounced the Roman church; but in the delirium of a fever which preceded his death, prayed only in the form of that church.—The following is another example, and presents, also, an instance of the tendency to dissolution which seems to accompany an expectation, consciousness or desire of death's approach.

Miss Jane A. Cranstoun was born in Scotland, 1760, of noble family by the father's and mother's side. She was sister of Mrs. Dugald Stewart, and in early life the intimate friend of Walter Scott. It appears that his character of Die Vernon was sketched from her.—In 1797 she married a German nobleman of the highest family, in Austria. He died in 1811, and her only child a few years after. She never returned to Scotland. In April, 1834, hearing that Capt, Basil Hall, son of one of her earliest intimate friends in Edinburgh, was in Italy, she wrote to him—"It will be doing me a great favor if you and Mrs. H. will bestow a visit on me. I am cut off from the tree of life. If you graciously visit me, you will draw back the veil and give me a glimpse of things, still, alas! too dear to me. When I dare hope to see you I will sign myself your grateful friend.—How unfeignedly happy shall I be to see you and your little ones. Your Scotch nursery-maid will revive me with the long-wished-for enjoyment of letting me hear once more the language of my heart."

Capt. Hall says—"We joined her in Sept. She had been confined to her bed three years. She had met none who could duly sympathize with those early, deep-rooted, natural associations which had lost nothing their force by the contact of foreign manners, and which rendered only the more dear to her. Under her circumstances it scarcely possible that she should attach herself strongly to comfort from any of the native families within her reach. greatest horror at the idea of dying alone, without eyes, and under the exclusive care of servants desire to establish in her castle an English their time chiefly to her, and whose tastes, habits might fall in with her own.—When, a month ture, I thought she would have expired. Earnest touching her appeals that we would not desert her, 'that as long as I can the society of my country-folks. You are them I shall see. Deny me not the only pleasure left me. you bestow on me I receive gratefully as a blessing. Die shortly lieve and hope I shall.'

"At the end of February she was in a feverish state, with cou 'Do not leave me to die among strangers! Stay to close my eyes a lay me in my grave.' In a fortnight she was as well, her people sa as she had been for many years at this season. 'You must be aware of the turn which things have been taking. My husband died March 22. On that day I think I shall die, happy if surrounded by friends. This, for many long years, has been my only wish.' March 20, she was in a high fever, talking incoherently. March 22d, noon—'I pray to be released. I die contented, when I have you to see me laid in my

grave, knowing that in spite of the fear which has haunted me so long, I shall not be left to die among strangers.' She died March 23, 9 P. M.

"From the histories of this intelligent and observant lady, I was led to notice the influence of political marriages, so common in that despotic region. When two young people are tied to one another, not restricted by principle, and still less invited to virtue; when their warmest and best feelings are wasted for want of generous employment, they are apt to indulge their passions, as soon as fitting objects come in their way; the formal chain by which their cold domestic relations have been held together is snapped in two at the first touch, and the solemn marriage vow takes the degraded rank of a dicer's oath. The causes which lead to this sad condition are instructive: they do not lie very deep and are easily explained.

"When marriages are formed, not from similarity of disposition, sympathy of feeling, and consequent affection, it were as reasonable to expect to gather figs of thistles as happiness from such unions. On eve of marriage, a young lady assumes to make herself agreeable; it is a piece of acting. The intended husband plays his part; 'his being is wrapped up in her; he is dying for her!' Honeymoon is little more than begun, when the parties appear to each other in their true colors, and prove that affection did not exist."

See also this Journal, Vol. 21, page 261.

MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

OSTON, MAY 13, 1840.

MAGINARY DISEASE.

gentlemen have visited this city for the express ical advice, who have so long been the victims hat it is questionable whether they ever recover effects of excessive medication. The most extraordinary ese two cases consists in the fact that both individuals con- selves to have had confirmed syphilis; and yet they are from the complaint, and never had it, nor is it probable or sible they could have contracted it. One of these gentlemen has the round of medicine; been salivated, and for fourteen months has dsively devoted himself to the important business of taking doses most every hour in the twenty-four. He commenced these insane ings with a tolerable constitution, and he is now an invalid. The other not only commenced with a determination of having the best medical advice, but added his own prescriptions to those of men who, either through ignorance or design, were picking his pocket by confirming his hallucinations. After becoming exceedingly enfeebled, he was satisfied that his wife and two children were tainted in the same manner. The more he contemplated their dreadful condition (although in perfect health), the more vigorously he determined to combat the insidious malady, lest by neglect they should ultimately fall into his own sad condition.

In this state of mind he came to Boston repeatedly, and at each visit he was assured, over and over again, that he was not diseased, and that he never had been: but so strongly had the impression been made that he alone was right, and all the physicians wrong, that reasoning with him was perfectly useless. When he announced the design of putting the family under a course of medicine, every effort was made to induce him to alter his intention, but ineffectually.

At this stage of affairs, this moral patient sought the healing influences of a notorious quack, whose anti-venereal drugs appeared to him to be the only remaining balm in Gilead. At the last interview had with this singular monomaniac, he represented his family to be in a fair way of recovery—though made considerably sick by what they were taking.

It is apprehended that a vast amount of physical injury is produced by unprincipled medical pretenders, who encourage this sort of maniacs in their crude or unfounded notions respecting their own health. There are others who fancy they have *worms, cancers, nervousness, too thick blood, enlarged livers, bilious stomachs, &c.*, and they are made absolutely wretched by a long course of unnecessary drugging, when the true disease is in the mind. The cases here cited are short, but pertinent illustrations of the truth of these observations.

History of the Mass. Med. Society.—In the May number of the American Quarterly Register, there is a compact article, of fourteen pages, devoted to the history of the Massachusetts Medical Society, by Ebene[illegible] Alden, M.D., of Randolph, a highly respected member. It abou[illegible] statistical facts, and even gives the names of all the fellow[illegible] sent year. A complete catalogue of all officers and m[illegible] time of the death of many of them, from the organi[illegible] on Nov. 1st, 1781, to 1840, may be found in it.

There can be no difference of opinion about the [illegible] this historical sketch; but it will certainly be a sub[illegible] it should have been given to a work devoted to [illegible] where it will not be seen by more than one in [illegible] Society. Indeed, it is a question whether the ex[illegible] Register, excellent as it is, is known to one fifth [illegible] medical journal is the appropriate place for medical thing[illegible] as soon have thought of reporting a case of measles in the Q[illegible] anything else appertaining to the domain of medicine; or [illegible] in our own pages an account of a foreign mission. These ob[illegible] are not made with a particle of ill will. We admire the [illegible] Quarterly Register, and respect its reverend editors; and unhesi[illegible] say that Dr. Alden has laid the whole profession in Massachusetts u[illegible] obligations to him, as a local medical historiographer; but it was a pity [illegible] place his work almost beyond the reach of those for whom it was expres[illegible] designed.

P. S.—Since the above observations were written, we have been assured that the object of inserting the communication in the Register, was to put the non-medical public in possession of the history of our excellent institution, against which the spirit of radicalism has been warring—with a view of disabusing the public mind, where any prejudices may exist against the general objects of the Society. If such was indeed the motive, the design meets our most cordial approval—knowing, as we do, that the *vox populi* has been loud against us; and the only mode of turn-

ing the current, is to show clearly, by historical documents, like the one under consideration, that the Society has been shamefully misrepresented by its enemies.

Dr. Brigham on the Brain.—It is gratifying to perceive that the work, by Dr. Brigham, of Hartford. Ct., alluded to some weeks since, meets with the decided approbation of medical readers. With the present prospect, the edition will soon be taken up, and should the author prepare another, additions might be made that would essentially enhance its value. Books written for the purpose of propagating theories, are found, by sad experience, to be unprofitable affairs; but such as teach the best methods of curing diseases, are readily sought by all intelligent members of the profession.

Lectures on Moral Philosophy.—That indefatigable man, Mr. George Combe, universally known for his researches, has lately presented the public with a new work, which fully maintains the reputation of this last strong champion of phrenology. The variety of papers that have accumulated in the office, and which it is desirable to publish before they become stale from age, may interfere with an extended notice of this work for some two or three weeks to come. In the meanwhile it may be found at Marsh, Capen, Lyon & Webb's, whose names stand in the title-page as publishers, and also at a majority of the bookstores.

...pparatus.—Dr. John B. Brown, of this city, well known to ... his success in the management of spinal distortions, ...dic Institution, has invented a very ingenious instru... club-feet of young children into shape. So accu... cogs and endless screw, that with a small key the ...ariously changed without removing the apparatus ...ure to himself the benefits of this discovery, it ...is is as it should be—for the instrument must ... Those of the profession who are consulted in ...ortion, without knowing precisely what to do, will ...sellor in Dr. Brown.

...an.—Dr. Otis R. Bacheler, of Holliston, Mass., will sail in the ... Harrison, on the 15th, for Hindostan, with the intention of being ...ermanently, as a practitioner of medicine and surgery, at Bola... ...out one hundred and twenty miles south-west of Calcutta, in the ...ice of the Free-will Baptist Foreign Missionary Society. We con...atulate the Society in having a man so well prepared, morally and scien...fically, to represent their benevolent and philanthropic intentions towards the destitute in a distant section of the globe. Dr. Bacheler will be a correspondent of our Journal, and we shall expect, hereafter, to receive many interesting communications from him.

Medical Miscellany.—The city Council of Boston have appropriated $12,000 for the Lunatic Asylum at South Boston, the ensuing year.—Dr. Erastus Humphries has been elected physician of the State Prison at Auburn, N. Y.—Dr. Howe has made another improvement in his recently

devised truss.—So excessively prone to bloodletting are the Sicilians, that a pamphlet has appeared at Palermo on the subject—a sort of warning voice to the people.—Dr. John R. Rhinelander has been appointed one of the trustees of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, in the city of New York.—A chair of medical literature has been established in the Academy of Medicine, at St. Petersburgh, by the Emperor, who has also authorized the publication of a medical journal.—Dr. Ferguson, of the Island of Jamaica, in resigning the care of the House of Correction into the hands of Dr. Arnold, gives a bad picture of the condition of the prisoners, growing out of a want of proper food and ventilation.—Mr. Day, the blacking manufacturer, of the famous firm of *Day & Martin*, left a legacy of *one hundred thousand pounds sterling*, to endow a hospital for the blind. Mr. Day had been blind many years before his death.—T. Hill, Esq., of South Lambeth, Eng., gave, in his will, *one thousand pounds* to the Middlesex Hospital, and *two thousand* to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, besides other magnificent bequests to public charities and missions, amounting to *one hundred and twenty thousand pounds sterling!* —The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society will be held in Boston on the last Wednesday of the present month, at 10 o'clock in the morning. Dr. Miller, Vice President of the Society, does not wish to be considered a candidate for the office the ensuing year.—An appropriation of $75,000 is proposed by the Legislature of New York, for the Lunatic Asylum.—On the 17th of March it was voted, at a meeting of the British Medical Association, that a congratulatory address on the royal marriage, should be made to the Queen, Prince Albert and the Duche[illegible] of Kent.—In the United Kingdom there are nineteen places whe[illegible] cal degrees are conferred.—A new scheme for a general sa[illegible] before the British Parliament, which has reference particul[illegible] stances affecting the public health in large towns and pop[illegible] A new work on distortions of the spine, chest and limbs[illegible] has appeared in London.—The wife of the Rev. R. G[illegible] was so much frightened in consequence of the house [illegible] three drunken shoe-makers, that she expired in bed, [illegible] at the time they attacked the door.—A sexton was l[illegible] ing the fetid gas of a tomb, in which he was [illegible] water that was in contact with two bodies. Ano[illegible] sexto[illegible] injured, but escaped with life.—On the 25th o[illegible] ch snow fell [illegible] city of Rome, six inches deep. A like occurrence [illegible] place at the [illegible] of the annunciation, exactly 245 years ago.—Cholera has again app[illegible] in the East, in a way to excite considerable alarm.—A new metho[illegible] slaughtering animals for human food has been practised to a consider[illegible] extent in England, by which the blood, the most nutritive part of the a[illegible] mal frame, is wholly retained. It consists in collapsing the lungs by means of an incision, which is expedited by the introduction of a tube attached to an air-tight bag or bladder filled with air. Meat, when killed by this method, is said to weigh from 7 to 10 per cent. more than that slaughtered by the old plan, and will keep much longer. Death takes place from one to four minutes after the introduction of the pipe.

To Correspondents.—Dr. Luke Howe's description of his improved surgical apparatus, will occupy a portion of our two next numbers.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending May 9, 20.—Males, 11—females, 9. Stillborn, 4.

Of consumption, 3—dropsy on the chest, 1—intemperance, 1—delirium tremens, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 1—fits, 3—casualty, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1—liver complaint, 1—dropsy, 1—scarlet fever, 1—smallpox, 3—lung fever, 1—typhous fever, 1—old age, 1.

MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY.

THE annual meeting of the Massachusetts Medical Society will be holden at the Temple, Tremont Street, on Wednesday, 27th inst., at 10 o'clock, A. M. The annual discourse will be delivered at 1 o'clock, P. M., by Abel L. Peirson, M.D., of Salem. Literary gentlemen interested in medical science, and students of medicine, are respectfully invited to attend. Dinner at 1-2 past 2, at the United States Hotel, opposite the Boston and Worcester Rail-road Depot.

A stated meeting of the Counsellors will be held on the day following, at the Society's room, Athenæum buildings, Pearl Street, at 10 o'clock, A.M.

S. D. TOWNSEND,
May 13—3t *Recording Secretary.*

TO PHYSICIANS.

A PHYSICIAN located within an hour and a half's ride of Boston, by rail-road, and having a practice of more than $1000 per annum, with a good prospect of increasing it, offers his situation for sale. Information may be had by addressing the editor, post paid. M. 13—

TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.

THE subscribers, at their private medical school in Tremont street, offer the following facilities to professional students.

A daily attendance at the Massachusetts General Hospital, and at the Eye and Ear Infirmary, with frequent opportunities of seeing cases, and surgical operations, in private practice, and in the public dispensaries. Arrangements have been made for affording obstetric practice to a considerable extent under the superintendence of the instructers.

A regular system of instruction by means of lectures and examinations in all the branches of the profession will be pursued throughout the year.

ANATOMY.—Recitations heard by Drs. Reynolds and Holmes. A course of lectures on Surgical Anatomy by Dr. Holmes. Demonstrations and Dissections.

SURGERY.—A complete course of eighty lectures, including diseases of the Eye and Ear, by Dr. Reynolds.

CHEMISTRY.—Recitations and instructions by Dr. Storer.

PHYSIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY.—Lectures and recitations by Dr. Holmes, including a special course on Auscultation and Percussion.

MIDWIFERY.—Lectures and recitations by Dr. Storer, with practical instruction on the application of obstetrical instruments upon the machine or model.

THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, CLINICAL INSTRUCTION, AND MATERIA MEDICA, under the superintendence of Dr. Bigelow.

JACOB BIGELOW,
EDWARD REYNOLDS,
D. HUMPHREYS STORER,
Boston, Nov. 20, 1839. ep1meop6m OLIVER W. HOLMES.

NEW MEDICAL WORK.

Charles C. Little and James Brown, Booksellers, No. 112 *Washington street, Boston.*

...EORY AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, by Marshall Hall, M.D. First American ... enlarged, by Jacob Bigelow, M.D., and O. W. Holmes, M.D. 794 pages, ... by an author of great celebrity, has been revised and augmented with new ...present state of medical science, by the American editors. It appears from ...e third of the entire volume is written by the editors. The following are ... American press in regard to this edition.

...y pronounce it the best and most complete text-book for the study and ...full of facts, well arranged and digested, and free from the endless repeti... matter which are often introduced into treatises upon medicine. The ...ce is reached in almost every instance."—*Philadelphia Medical Examiner.*

...est ... knowledge of the present day, exhibiting, in general, able and cor... results of recent investigations in all the varieties of disease."

... not where ... clear and intelligible an exposition of *auscultation* and *percussion* ...ound."—*American Journal of Medical Sciences (Philadelphia).*

...trikes us, after a ... examination, that no practitioner who has once had this book in his ...ion would know how to dispense with it. The editors, or in fact authors, appear to have ... prepared the first part, a most excellent and indispensable addition to the original text. ...hout the entire volume the additions they have made are readily recognized, and form an ...al feature in the construction of ... American edition. To students of medicine especially we ...mend this edition as being sup... to any other work extant for them."—*Boston Medical and ...gical Journal.*

March 11—6m

SCHOOL FOR MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for receiving pupils, and affording them every facility for obtaining a complete medical education. Their pupils will have access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and to surgical operations in private practice. Instruction will be given by examinations and lectures in the interval of the public lectures at the Medical College. Facilities will be afforded for the prosecution of practical anatomy. A room is provided with books, &c., for the use of the students.

JOHN C. WARREN,
JOHN B. S. JACKSON,
ROBERT W. HOOPER,
Oct. 9—tf J. MASON WARREN.

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